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Message Text

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12
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SCI-06 NSF-04 INT-08 AGR-20

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 /133 W
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P 091020Z SEP 74
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E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, IS
SUBJECT: US-ISRAEL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR R & D

REF: TEL AVIV 4536

1. EMB SCIATT AND ECONOUNS MET SEP 6 WITH PROFESSOR ITZHAK YAAKOV, CHAIRMAN, ISRAELI R&D SUB-COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH US COUNTERPART.

2. ISRAELI SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEEN MODIFIED FROM THAT REPORTED REFTEL. MEMBERSHIP NOW CONSISTS OF YAACOV, DR ELIEZER TAL, DIRGEN, NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR R&D; PROFESSOR AVRAHAM HERMONI, VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PLANNING AND IDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, TEL AVIV UNIV; DR YOASH VAAAIA, SCIENCE ADVISOR, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND DIRECTOR, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, AND MISS RINA PRIDOR, ASSISTANT SCIENCE ADVISOR, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

3. YAAKOV HAS SUGGESTED THREE DATES FOR FIRST JOINT MEETING IN ISRAEL: SEP 19, OCT 2, AND OCT 9. ALTHOUGH
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ISRAELIS ARE PREPARED TO HOST MEETING ON ANY OF THESE

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DATES CONVENIENT TO US TEAM, YAAKOV BELIEVES OCT 9 MOST SATISFACTORY. SEPTEMBER DATE ALLOWS SHORT TIME FOR PREPARATION AND YOM KIPPUR HOLIDAY WOULD INTERFERE WITH OCT 2 DATE.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE HAS COMPILED LENGHLY PRELIMINARY QUOTE SHOPPING LIST UNQUOTE OF POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS FOR DISCUSSION. MAJOR EMPHASIS WILL BE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL R&D PROJECTS WITH EARLY PAY-OFF POTENTIAL. YAAKOV CITED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN ENERGY, ECOLOGY, FOOD PROCESSING, PHARMACEUTICALS, MEDICAL ELECTRONICS, AND HOUSING. ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE IN MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL R&D AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENTRE-PRENEURSHIP. STATED ISRAEL HAS WEALTH OF SCIENTIFIC TALENT AND IDEAS BUT IS WEAK IN TRANSLATING THESE RESOURCES TO INDSUTRAIL APPLICATIONS.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO WISHES TO INSTITUTIONALIZE MECHA-NISM FOR TRANSFER OF TECH INFORMATION. YAAKOV VISUALIZES CLEARING-HOUSE STRUCTURE WHICH WOULD REFER SPECIFIC ISRAELI REQUESTS FOR KNOW-HOW AND TECHNICAL INFO TO APPROPRIATE US AGENCY OR INDUSTRY.

6. YAAKOV HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE OF PROPOSED INCREASE OF BINATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT AND OF US-ISRAEL DESALINATION PROJECT. SUGGESTS BROADENING OF BSF CHARTER TO ALLOW GREATER SUPPORT OF INDSUTRAIL R&D AS WELL AS TECH-NICAL CONFERENCES, PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES. ETC..

7. ISRAEL, HE NOTED, IS VERY ACTIVE IN R&D PROJECTS OF POTENTIAL VALUE TO LDCS. INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY ARE PROJECTS ON ARID ZONE AGRICULTURE, WATER CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION, FISH CULTURE, CHEAP ENERGY SOURCES FOR ISLOATED COMMUNITIES. SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD WELCOME COLLABORATION WITH AID.

8. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT NON-GOVERNMENTAL NATURE OF MOST US INDUSTRIAL R&D AND DIFFICULTY IN DEVELOPING CENTRALIZED COOPERATION. THEY ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT US INDUSTRY'S OBJECTIVE IS PROFIT MAKING AND NOT ASSISTANCE. THUS PROPOSALS TO US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDUSTRY FOR JOINT VENTURES OR COLLABORATIVE R&D SHOULD BE PREPARED WITH THAT IN MIND. THEY SUGGESTED THAT R&D SUB-COMMITTEE WORK CLOSELY WITH INVESTMENT SUBCOMMITTEE WITH VIEW OF CHANNELLING FUNDS INTO PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS OUTLETS.

9. COMMENT: FROM CONVERSATION DESCRIBED ABOVE AND TALKS WITH OTHER ISRAELI OFFICIALS, IT SEEMS THAT THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE OVERLAPPING OF SUBJECT MATTER AMONG SUBCOMMITTEES.

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WE HOPE THIS ASPECT WILL BE CLEARER WHEN WE GET REPORT ON LAST
WEEK'S SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS. IN MEANTIME, EMB WOULD APPRE-
CIATE RECEIVING COMPOSITION OF US TEAM FOR R&D MEETING
AND PREFERRED ATE.
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